Target for bringing Agricultural Land under Drip Irrigation

1227. SHRIMATI ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated target for bringing agricultural land under drip irrigation in the country during 1995-96;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of hectares of land likely to be brought under drip irrigation in Gujarat State during the above period; and

(d) the district-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI. S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) During 1995-96, and area of 30734 ha. is proposed to be brought under drip irrigation in the country.

(c) An area of 1481 hectare is to be brought under drip irrigation in Gujarat State.

(d) The District-wise area targetted in Gujarat under drip irrigation is as given below:

S.N	. District	Area(ha.)
1.	Ahmedabad	75
2.	Amreli	95
3.	Kutch	100
4.	Kheda	80
5.	Gandhi nagar	75
6.	Jamnagar	76
7.	Junagadh	125
8.	Panchimahal	65
9.	Banaskantha	50
10.	Bharuch	60
11.	Bhavnagar	125
12.	Mehsana	75
13.	Rajkot	125
14.	Vadodara	90
15.	Valsad/Dang	70
16.	Sabarkantha	70
17.	Surat	75
18.	Surendranagar	50
	Tota 1:	1481

Newspaper Report on Steel Sale Racket

1228. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will tne Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have seen a news-item in Observer of 30th June, 1995 regarding Steel sale racket at BSP;

(b) if so, the category-wise quantum of steel involved and its value;

(c) the manner in which the pilferred quantities have been reflected in closing stocks and balance sheet in view of the production of these categories in these years, and there being no sale to the extent of pilferage;

(d) the reasons for not noticing such shortage for so long by the Bokaro Steel Plant authorities;

(e) whether any officials from the Bokaro Steel Plant have been made accountable and the action taken against them;

(f) whether similar situation have been noticed in other steel plants of SAIL also; and

(g) the steps taken or being taken to prevent recurrence of such situation in the plants of SAIL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir, (b) the news-item relates to the theft of steel materials from Bokaro Steel Plant on 4/5.3.93 which was loaded in 4 trucks and the trucks were intercepted by the villagers of Mahuar village outside the plant perimeter wall. The weight of material (4 out slabs and 2 steel castings) involved in the above theft case is approximately 43 tonnes, and the value of the same is Rs. 3.38 lakhs.

(c) and (d) For the purpose of preparation of accounts, including balance sheet, category-wise stocks, as per physical verification is adopted. Any shortage/surplus arising on reconcilation is duly adjusted in the accounts.

(e) 7 workmen of Bokaro Steel Plant have been arrested recently by the CBI and they all have since been suspended.

(f) while there have been petty/stray incidents of thefts noticed in other steel plants of SAIL, however the *modus operandi* varies from place to place and case to case.